



# TOWN OF FREDERICK M E M O R A N D U M

## Police Department

TO: Derek Todd, Town Administrator

FROM: Gary Barbour, Chief of Police

DATE: November 20, 2009

SUBJECT: **Proposed Revisions to the Fee Schedule**

### Proposed Revisions to the Fee Schedule

The experience of the Community Service Officers is that the majority of stray dogs encountered by them are not spayed or neutered. This is consistent with the nature of dogs. Their mating drive, when their reproductive organs are intact, is such that they will make efforts to leave fenced yards or other confinement and seek out mates. The same is true of cats. Although the Town long ago established a higher fee for unaltered animals, the difference is insignificant. The reason for a higher fee is that unaltered animals are more likely to be picked up as strays and they produce unwanted offspring that also burden the system. The Town of Frederick presently requires a fee of ten dollars for an altered animal and fifteen dollars for an unaltered one. Many communities have established fees for unaltered animals that are several times the amount for altered ones. This recognizes the fact that unaltered animals constitute the bulk of the stray animal problem and it provides an incentive for owners to get their pets neutered or spayed. The following chart shows some of the other communities in the area relative to their licensing fees.

Community	Altered Fee	Unaltered Fee
Jefferson County	\$15	\$30
Longmont	\$15	\$25
Boulder	\$14	\$28
Aurora	\$12	\$132
Denver	\$15	\$93
Ft Collins	\$10	\$27

### **Spaying and Neutering**

The police department has previously distributed literature encouraging residents to have their pets either spayed or neutered. These efforts will continue. There are low-cost services available for those unable or reluctant to get the job done at local veterinary clinics. The costs associated with these procedures are as follows, according to a brief survey of area providers:

<b>Shelter</b>	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>
<u>Longmont Humane</u> (Must call for appointment on weekdays, available Wednesdays and Fridays for surgery. No income requirements.)	Spay \$90 Neuter \$80	Spay \$60 Neuter \$50
<u>Every Creature Counts Ft Lupton</u> (Must call for appointment on weekdays, available seven days a week for surgery. No income requirements.)	Spay or Neuter \$40 - \$80 (depends on weight of dog)	Spay \$25 Neuter \$20

The above prices are low compared with veterinary clinics. For example, one veterinary clinic in the area has the following prices for these services:

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>
<b>Spay</b>	Weight/age specific: from 40 lbs. up the cost is \$205 to \$265. If she is over 2 years then cost increases \$50.	\$185
<b>Neuter</b>	Weight specific: From 40 lbs. up the cost is \$145 to \$180.	\$100

### **Recommendation**

The Board of Trustees will be asked to raise the license fees for altered and unaltered animals. It will also be asked to make the cost of a license for an unaltered animal significantly higher.

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a fee of fifteen dollars for an altered animal and ninety-five to one hundred twenty five dollars for an unaltered one.**